

Landscaping

Potential Environmental Impacts:

Excess pesticides and fertilizer that you put on your lawn and plantings can eventually run off into the marina basin and harm marine and aquatic life. Landscaping techniques can be used to reduce environmental impacts on marina basins and can save money by requiring less water and maintenance, while creating an attractive location for customers.

Legal Requirements:

- Grass clippings may not be disposed of with regular trash [CGS §22a-208v(c)]. Leave the clippings to decompose on the ground or compost them.
- Before disposing of old or unused lawn additives, particularly pesticides, conduct a hazardous waste determination to establish whether or not their disposal is subject to hazardous waste regulations [40 CFR 262.11; RCSA §22a-449(c)-102(a)(2)(A)]. Manage hazardous waste as described in Appendix B.

Best Management Practices:

- ★ Use native plants for landscaping. Plants that are native to the region and climate compete well with weeds and other pests. They also require less fertilizer and pest control than non-native plants. Native plants can be purchased at your local nursery.
- ★ Avoid planting invasive species. Invasive species multiply rapidly and take over areas very quickly. The list of invasive species in Connecticut is available at <http://www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg> (click on “invasive lists”) or by calling CT-DEP’s Geologic and Natural History Survey at (860) 424-3585, or the UCONN Department of Plant Science at (860) 486-6448.
- ★ Save water by watering in the early morning or late afternoon. Oscillating sprinklers can lose up to 50% of water to evaporation on hot days.
- ★ Use composted fish waste as fertilizer for your plants. See “Fish Waste” fact sheet for more information.
- ★ Plant a vegetated filter strip or buffer between impervious areas and the marina basin. A vegetated filter strip is a densely vegetated strip of land engineered to accept runoff from upstream development as overland sheet flow.
- ★ Minimize fertilizer use. When it comes to fertilizer, *more is not better!* The excess nutrients from unused fertilizer will run off into the marina basin and potentially cause an algal bloom. Plus, the more you fertilize, the more frequently you have to mow. Leave grass clippings on the lawn areas since they act as a natural organic fertilizer.
- ★ If you must use fertilizer, apply it in late April and again in September. If a third treatment is needed, apply in late May. Apply only a half pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of lawn at each application. To figure this out, divide 100 by twice the percentage of nitrogen (N) in the



Using the best management practices listed below can reduce or eliminate the need for pesticides in a marina’s landscaping.

fertilizer. This will give you the application rate in pounds of fertilizer per 1,000 square feet of lawn.

Checklist for Clean Marina Certification:

- ✓ Do you use native plants in landscaping?

YESNO N/A
- ✓ Do you minimize use of fertilizers and pesticides or use compost on landscaping?

YESNO N/A
- ✓ Do you have a vegetated buffer between impervious surface (like pavement) and the marina basin, where practical, or limit paved areas?

YESNO N/A